



## Botha – Surname of the week

Meaning: "son of the leader"

The Thirty Years' War (1618- 1648) left many of the German states in a poor economic condition. Consequently many Germans, including ex-soldiers, were drawn to the west by the wealth of the Netherlands. Political boundaries did not imply a complete division between the people living in the border regions, and from a linguistic point of view there was not much of a difference between German and Dutch. This was particularly true of the regional dialects of the eastern Netherlands and western German regional dialects with a strong Saxon influence.



The surname of BOTHA in South Africa is derived from two progenitors. The first progenitor, Friedrich "Both" was born on 4th March 1653 in Wangenheim (Germany), about 8 kilometres North West of Gotha, in the Province of Thuringia in the duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and was the son of a Michael Botha. He married a Maria Kickers in 1714. Kickers and Botha farmed for a living between Stellenbosch and Somerset West. Today, their legal descendants number around 76,125 people.

The second progenitor is Samuel Friedrich Bode was born in 1730 in Lüneburg, Germany. In 1766 the family stayed in Hannover and Samuel left to go to Amsterdam to join the VOC. According to legend the family is believed to have migrated from France (as Huguenots) possibly to the Netherlands and then to Germany. The surname changed from Boudier (France) to Boodjee (Netherlands) to Bode (Germany) and finally to Botha (South Africa), although he came from Germany, he is believed to have migrated to South Africa from France.

Both progenitors is present in South Africa from as early as 1672.

The progenitors of the extended clan were Maria Kickers, her first partner Ferdinandus Appel, and her later husband Frederich Botha. Some well-known people carry the Botha surname and here is some of them:

- Adriaan Botha, South African sprinter
- Andre Botha (bodyboarder) (born 1980), South African body boarder
- Andre Botha (cricketer) (born 1975), South African-born Irish cricketer
- Andries Botha, Khoikhoi leader in the Cape Colony
- Anthony Greyvensteyn Botha, South African cricketer
- Arno Botha, South African rugby player
- Bernado Botha, South African rugby player
- Beverly Botha, South African female cricketer
- Brendon James Botha, South African rugby player
- Cornelius Botha, South African politician
- Chrysander Botha, Namibian rugby player
- Danila Botha, South African-born Canadian novelist
- Dewald Botha, South African cricketer
- Dawid Botha, Namibian cricketer
- Francois Botha, South African boxer
- Gary Botha, South African rugby player

- Hannah Botha, South African actress
- Heidi Botha, South African fencer
- Hendrik Egnatius "Naas" Botha, South African rugby player
- Johan Botha (athlete) (born 1974), South African middle distance runner
- Johan Botha (cricketer) (born 1982), South African born Australian cricketer
- Johan Botha (tenor) (1965–2016), opera singer
- John Philip "Bakkies" Botha, South African rugby player
- Leon Botha, South African artist and progeria victim
- Lukas "Luki" Botha, South African Formula One driver
- Mike Botha, South African-born master diamond cutter
- Mouritz Botha, South African rugby player
- Piet Botha, South African rock musician
- Riaan Botha, South African pole vaulter
- Roelof Botha, South African account, former PayPal chief financial officer
- Roelof Frederik "Pik" Botha (1932–2018), South African politician and diplomat
- Ruan Botha, South African rugby player
- Sandra Botha, South African diplomat and ambassador
- Stoffel Botha, South African politician
- Theo Botha, South African shareholder activist
- Thozamile Botha, South African politician
- Tom Botha, South African rugby player
- Tyler Botha, South African skeleton racer
- Wendy Botha, South African-born Australian surfer

Prior to her marriage to Frederich Botha, Maria Kickers had an out-of-wedlock child fathered by Ferdinandus Appel, another Hollander from an Amsterdam family. This child, a son named Theunis, was later adopted by the Bothas. His descendants include:

- Louis Botha (1862–1919), first Prime Minister of South Africa, often referred to as "General Botha"
- Pieter Willem "P.W." Botha (1916–2006), South African prime minister from 1978 to 1984 and state president from 1984 to 1989.

For More information regarding your BOTHA ancestry, or to have a professional draw up a family-tree for you, Please contact us at:

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